

CLAIMS

1. Method of rearranging an electronic document (200) with a
5 view to subsequent processing, the electronic document comprising a set of
recordings of graphical instructions (O1, O2), characterised in that it includes
the following steps:

- constructing (E1) at least one group (S) of recordings of
graphical instructions, a first recording of graphical instructions (O1) belonging
10 to a group (S) if there exists at least a second recording of graphical
instructions (O2) in said group (S) juxtaposing or intersecting the first recording
of graphical instructions (O1); and

- dividing (E6, E30, E33) the group of recordings of graphical
instructions (S) into a minimum number of subgroup or subgroups of recordings
15 of graphical instructions, each subgroup of recordings of graphical instructions
being adapted to be processed on an entity with a predetermined format.

2. Rearrangement method according to Claim 1, characterised
in that the construction step (E1', E1'') is implemented independently on each
set of recordings of graphical instructions associated respectively with a page of
20 said electronic document (200).

3. Rearrangement method according to Claim 2, characterised
in that it comprises, before the dividing step, a step (E40) of merging groups of
recordings of graphical instructions, two groups of recordings of graphical
instructions (S1, S2), belonging respectively to two distinct pages of the
25 electronic document, being merged if they are contiguous.

4. Rearrangement method according to one of Claims 1 to 3,
characterised in that it also comprises a step of storing each subgroup of
recordings of graphical instructions respectively in a related processing file.

5. Rearrangement method according to Claim 4, characterised
30 in that it also comprises a step of substituting, for each group of recordings of
graphical instructions (S; S1, S2) in a main processing file (EMF; EMF1, EMF2)

associated with said electronic document, graphical instructions adapted to represent the geometric envelope of said group (S; S1, S2).

6. Rearrangement method according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that, at the dividing step, each subgroup of recordings of graphical instructions is adapted to be processed on an entity with a predetermined format after enlargement of the electronic document.

7. Method of printing an electronic document (200) after rearrangement of the document by means of the rearrangement method according to one of Claims 4 or 5, characterised in that it comprises a step (E9, E36) of printing the document from the related processing file or files and the main processing file; (EMF; EMF1, EMF2).

8. Printing method according to Claim 7, characterised in that it comprises, before the step (E9) of printing each related processing file, the following steps:

- analysing the content of each related processing file; and
- configuring a printing device (260), choosing one configuration amongst a set of predetermined configurations, according to the content of each related processing file.

9. Printing method according to one of Claims 7 or 8, characterised in that, at the printing step (E36), the printing device (260) is configured in a draft mode (D) in order to print the main processing file (EMF; EMF1, EMF2).

10. Device for rearranging an electronic document (200) with a view to subsequent processing, the electronic document comprising a set of recordings of graphical instructions (O1, O2), characterised in that it comprises:

- means (100, 101, 102) of constructing at least one group (S) of recordings of graphical instructions, a first recording of graphical instructions (O1) belonging to a group (S) if there exists at least a second recording of graphical instructions (O2) in said group (S) juxtaposing or intersecting the first recording of graphical instructions (O1); and

- means (100, 101, 102) of dividing the group of recordings of graphical instructions (S) into a minimum number of subgroup or groups of

recordings of graphical instructions, each subgroup of recordings of graphical instructions being adapted to be processed on an entity with a predetermined format.

11. Rearrangement device according to Claim 10, characterised in that it comprises means (100, 101, 102) of merging groups of recordings of graphical instructions, two groups of recordings of graphical instructions (S1, S2), belonging respectively to two distinct pages of the electronic document (200), being merged if they are contiguous.

12. Rearrangement device according to one of Claims 10 or 11, characterised in that it also comprises means of storing each subgroup of recordings of graphical instructions respectively in a related processing file.

13. Rearrangement device according to one of Claims 10 or 12, characterised in that it also comprises means of substituting, for each group of recordings of graphical instructions (S; S1, S2), in a main processing file (EMF; EMF1, EMF2) associated with said electronic document (200), graphical instructions adapted to represent the geometric envelope of said group (S; S1, S2).

14. Device for printing an electronic document (200) after rearrangement of the document by means of the rearrangement method according to one of Claims 4 or 5, characterised in that it comprises means of printing (260) the document (200) from the related processing file or files and the main processing file (EMF; EMF1, EMF2).

15. Printing device according to Claim 14, characterised in that it also comprises:

- means (100, 101, 102) of analysing the content of each related processing file; and
- configuration means (100, 101, 102) adapted to choose a configuration amongst a set of predetermined configurations (I, T, D), according to the content of each related processing file.

16. Printing device according to one of Claims 14 or 15, characterised in that it comprises configuration means (100, 101, 102) adapted

17. Rearrangement device according to one of Claims 10 to 13, characterised in that it is incorporated in a system comprising:

- 10 18. Computer, characterised in that it comprises means adapted
to implement the rearrangement method according to one of Claims 1 to 6.

20. Printer, characterised in that it comprises means adapted to implement the printing method according to one of Claims 7 to 9.

22. Computer program, readable by a microprocessor,
20 comprising portions of software code adapted to implement the printing method
according to any one of Claims 7 to 9.